

Stormwater Guide for small businesses

Please do your part to keep the waterways clean in your town.

| TOPIC | BEST PRACTICE |
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| <p>Dumpsters Keep dumpster areas free from litter, debris, and sediments.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule regular waste pick-ups. • Keep dumpsters and waste bins covered. Anything in an uncovered dumpster or trash bin is vulnerable to the weather, and can wash into nearby stormdrains during wet weather. • Never wash dumpsters with a hose. If cleaning is needed, contact the leasing company. |
| <p>Cleaning Outdoor Areas</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check dumpsters regularly for leaks, and replace if necessary. • Dry sweep paved areas on a regular basis, including parking lots, patios, dumpster areas. • Do NOT use a hose to wash down pavement. • Dispose of debris in waste containers only. Do not sweep trash, yardwaste, sand, salt or ice melt chemicals into the gutter or stormdrain. |
| <p>General Cleaning</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid over-salting in the winter, and sweep up any excess or spills. • Don't pour wash water or chemicals down a stormdrain. • Dispose of wash water down a sanitary sewer. (sink or toilet). • Be sure to store all chemicals in appropriate containers that don't leak. • Any excess chemical spills, especially outdoors, should be swept up immediately. |
| <p>Landscaping You can save time and money, and prevent stormwater runoff by making a few simple changes to your routine. Talk to your landscaper about ways to prevent excessive use of lawn chemicals and irrigation runoff.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use cleaning products that are non-toxic to vegetation and wildlife. • Limit the use of lawn chemicals and always follow directions. • Test your grass before adding fertilizer. Why pay for services and materials that you may not need? Have your soil tested at the UMass Extension: http://extension.umass.edu/landscape/ • Use organic fertilizer whenever possible. Organic or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer causes less harm to water. Also make sure to use fertilizer with no or low phosphorus—phosphorus causes algae growth. <p><i>Fertilizers are made of nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus. When it rains, these nutrients are carried by stormwater into the nearest water body. Too many nutrients in water can cause algae to grow, which can deplete oxygen and hurt aquatic wildlife - and make boating, fishing and swimming unpleasant.</i></p> |
| <p>Irrigation Before you begin to irrigate, keep in mind that just one inch of water per week from rain/irrigation is enough to keep a lawn green.</p>  | <p>To avoid water loss, evaporation, and runoff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid irrigating when it's windy. The best time to water is early morning. • Make sure that sprinkler heads are pointed at the lawn and not the pavement - adjust and fix heads as necessary. • Upgrade to a moisture sensor to ensure irrigating only when needed, and avoid using old-fashioned irrigation timers. |
| <p>Hardscapes Patios, sidewalks, and driveways are examples of hardscapes that may cause stormwater runoff, depending on what type of materials are used to build them.</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep all asphalt and concrete to a minimum and whenever possible, use bricks, pavers, or stone to create pathways and patios. • Use sand (not concrete) between bricks, to allow water to percolate through the seams, rather than runoff into stormdrains. |
| <p>Storage of Materials</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All chemical cleaners, road salt, fertilizers, pesticides, and gas and oil for machinery, should be stored in appropriate containers that don't leak. • Any excess chemical spills should be swept up immediately. |

We're working with your town to reduce stormwater pollution.

Northern Middlesex

COLLARBOROUGH

Learn more at www.nmstormwater.org

COMMERCIAL BUSINESS

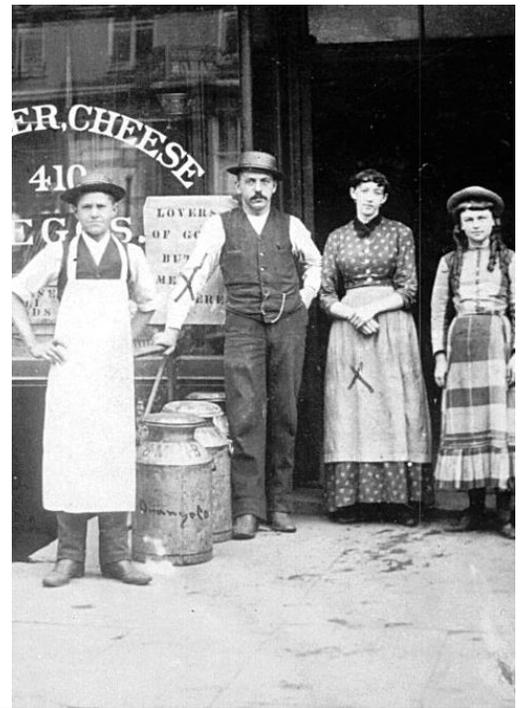
As a business owner, you know that it's important to maintain your property.

Equally as important is keeping your local stormdrains clear of debris, fertilizer, pesticides, and other contaminants to prevent polluted stormwater runoff.

The federal EPA will soon be imposing new requirements on municipal stormwater systems, which may be very costly for towns and businesses to implement.

Minimizing the pollutants that run off of your property and into stormdrains may reduce the need for towns to raise revenue to comply with these new federal rules.

Taking low cost actions now may result in significant future savings for you and your town.



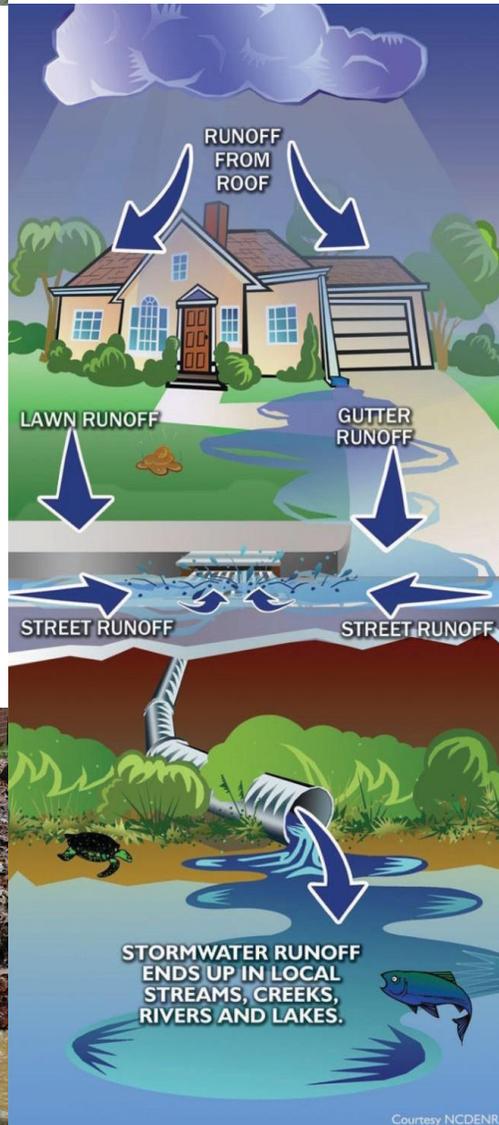
When rain water flows over lawns, gardens, and impervious surfaces—and does not seep into the ground—it carries pollutants into local waterways, affecting the cleanliness and health of the water that we rely on for drinking and recreation.

We call this water **stormwater pollution**.

Common pollutants include:

Antifreeze, Detergents, Fertilizers, Gasoline, Household Chemicals, Motor Oil, Paints, Pesticides, Pet Waste, Road Salt, Solvents, Yard Waste

Storm drains connect to waterways, they are not trash cans!



Together, we can reduce the amount of fertilizers, pesticides, and nutrients that are polluting our local waterways.

- Keep dumpster areas swept clean of litter, debris and sediments—and keep them covered. Schedule regular pick-ups.
- Sweep parking lot, walkways and patios on a regular basis. Do not use a hose to wash down pavement.
- Keep stormdrains clear of debris and landscaping materials.
- Avoid excessive salting in the winter, and sweep up spills.
- Pour washwater down a sanitary sewer (sink or toilet), never down a stormdrain.
- Use non-toxic cleaning products and organic lawn chemicals.
- Water lawns and gardens only. Don't allow irrigation to spray onto pavement.
- Store hazardous materials properly and dispose of through the local Hazardous Waste Program.



Stormwater runoff causes more than half of the pollution in our waterways.

We're working with your town to reduce stormwater pollution. More at www.nmstormwater.org

Northern Middlesex
**STORMWATER
COLLABORATIVE**

